AN INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE BY AND FOR ACTIVE RADIOAMATEURS AND CONTESTERS

RADIOSPORTING

1984
APRIL
issue Ø

Editor: VE3BMV, Yuri Blanarovich, P.O.Box 65, Don Mills, ON, M3C 2R6 CANADA

Dear fellow Active Ham.

Allow me this oportunity to approach you with some ideas, and perhaps get you interested in the project we have in mind. You might like to participate in the making of it, or just simply to enjoy being part of it.

From my own experience and in talking to a number of active hams, be it contesters, DXers or any other -ers interested and involved in different aspects of Amateur Radio activity, we all find that we are missing an organization or a publication that would be timely and contain articles that are stimulating and on the subjects of interest to the active operator. We find many magazines publishing too many articles on dipole antennas and not enough on the subject of contesting, high performance antennas, operating procedures, etc. When asked, they usually say there is not enough of us to devote the space for our activity. Most of the magazines are run by people who are more businessmen, rather than competitive amateur. This of course reflects the content - there is more stuff aimed at converted CBer rather than the champion or would be champion or growing DXer.

I have to confess, that Amateur Radio is the most interesting hobby I had the chance to be involved in. I have been active in many sports and activities from stamp collecting, team handball to photography. There usually comes a time when we become "too old" for it or we simply reach the point, where there is not much room for further growth and the interest vanishes. Because humans are curious "animals" we like to do things that present a challenge and oportunity to explore. (Of course, there are the types that achieve the "top" by watching TV with beer bottle in their hand. Lets leave them alone, they are OK.) Amateur Radio is the hobby and sport that held my interest continuously over 25 years since day I discovered it. I experienced many aspects of it: SWL, designing and building the equipment and antennas, DXing, CW, satellite, VHF, club activities, writing articles, teaching new prospective hams, contesting, exploring propagation phenomena, etc. It is this aspect of continuous change in technology, variety of people and unpredictable behaviour of the "ether" that makes this hobby so wonderfull and fascinating. Thanks to this hobby I have met so many wonderful and devoted people and made so many friends. Thanks to this hobby and some wonderful amateurs I was able to find my way to a free country and start my life from scratch. I am thankful to this hobby for enlarging my knowledge base, helping me in my professional career. My first DXpedition to FP8 land ended up in the N.Y. City but it brought the most valuable "DX" - my XYL.

I still enjoy Amateur Radio, there are so many things to do, and I still can not see the end or flat top. Computers are bringing new dimension to Amateur Radio. For the real, hard core competitive type there are major international contests, each presenting a new challenge. Unfortunately we come in conflict with people who, because of their inability to see ahead or selfish interests they are trying to degrade this hobby down to the CB garbage. Some are advocating changes, deregulation, lowering the standards in the name of boosting the electronic industry. It is obvious that this can only lead to the same mess that CB radio got into - illegal operation and use of transmitting equipment, foul language and absolute chaos. Do we want Amateur Radio to go the same way as CB? Personally I would not like to see this happen. I am an active Ham, I operate on the bands and I, like others, want to enjoy it for many years to come. We have seen publishers and editors of amateur radio magazines posing as industry representatives trying to remove the licensing requirements in order to open up the hobby to masses and get the electronic industry and magazines to sell to more people. The question is why don't they serve CB market? The numbers are there. How long was the CB industry a boom? Not for too long. People got fed-up with garbage, quit, and the boom was over. It does not take a genius to figure out that we are to follow the same pattern if the exam requirements were dropped. If one wants to enjoy the priviledge of being a ham, he should be willing to "suffer" through the exams and thus treasuring this hobby. Otherwise there is a CB stuff, where one does not have to do anything to get on the air. Go, do it if you are that type, leave us, willing to work and to deserve it alone. Thanks to all of those, who expressed their opinion on no-code licence. If an 11 year old girl can pass tests for highest US license, than a PhD could do it too if he wants to±

Discussing the matter with many amateurs, especially the contest types, we all agree that there is a need for organization that would represent the active and competitive radioamateur. There is also a need for a journal or magazine that would have short lead time and would be devoted to active amateurs involved in the many operating aspects of our hobby.

I have taken the liberty to try to get the International Radio Sport Association (IRSA) and RADIOSPORTING Magazine off the ground. It would be run by and for active radioamateurs, not necessarily the literary gem, but filled with timely information that would be of interest to many involved in operating and competive aspects of amateur radio. The aims and objectives are outlined on the following pages.

If you feel this idea has merrit and perhaps would fulfill your needs, please let us know. Join the group as a column leader, contributor or in any capacity you choose and think it might be helpful. We would like to make it a lively exchange of ideas and knowledge aimed to promote interests of radioamateurs, quality and sportsmanship in the true Ham-spirit. We would like to stay free of commercial or bureucratic influences. We want to have world's best people participating and contributing to the association and periodical. If you are interested in reading the timely material written by the world's best and subscribing to the magazine, please send in your subscription. If you are interested in joining and participating in the activities of IRSA, please join the association. If you are interested in writing, (or if you hate writing, make an audio tape), please send us your article or notes, we are looking for factual stories and ideas. If you know about "forgotten" pioneers and stories from the good old days of radio, please send us the article or audio tape. If you are involved in commercial aspects of radio and communications, please send us your news and releases or advertising.

I hope that we all can create and fuel this association and magazine, that we can all enjoy interesting articles and all of us will join forces to promote the quality, sportsmanship and international friendship and goodwill through Amateur Radio. We are taking this oportunity to kick-off the idea at Dayton Hamvention. We will be talking to many of you and solicit the ideas, opinions and commitments to help with IRSA and RADIOSPORTING. Please come forward if you would like to get involved. We will be also making arrangements to "unify" all the hospitality suites into one large room, where we can run some programs and have fun meeting our friends over the 807. This should make it more interesting, allow people to find each other and be able to see some interesting presentations. We would also like to hold an annual awards dinner where those that made significant achievements in the field would be presented with an "Oscar".

de VE3BMV

RADIOSPORTING MAGAZINE.

RADIOSPORTING is an international magazine dedicated to contesting, DXing and other operating activities. The staff and contributors to this magazine are among the world's best and most qualified radioamateurs. RADIOSPORTING will be dedicated to excellence, to fair-play competition and to the promotion of quality in Amateur Radio. It will be committed to representing the interests of radioamateurs and to unbiased reporting on events of interest to active Hams. The magazine is not affiliated with any other firm, group or organization.

You are invited to take part. This magazine will be written by active amateurs for active amateurs. Our aim is to be a valuable resource of ideas and a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences.

The first issue of RADIOSPORTING will be published for September 1984. It will be a monthly publication with a very short lead time, typically two weeks. The closing date for the issue will be the 15th of the month preceeding the publication month. The issues will be printed and mailed out by the end of the month. This will allow fresh and timely material to arrive at subscriber's shack in the first week of the month for that issue.

The format and physical layout of RADIOSPORTING will allow organisation of articles by topics. It will be printed on white paper, size 8.5 x 11 inch and organized in a such way that individual pages can be removed and stored in three ring binders. The articles and columns will be printed in one piece without continuation somewhere else in the back of the issue. The remaining space will be used for advertising related to the column, otherwise the rest of the advertisements will be placed at the end of the magazine, forming a catalog section. Printing techniques will allow reproduction of black and white or colour photographs in B/W and drawings.

The columns and features of timely nature will be printed monthly, other columns and articles may appear bi-monthly or as needed. Articles will be grouped by subjects in the individual issues to allow easy filing and indexing.

The editing and composing of the magazine will be done on the personal computer of Apple II type, using Wordstar word processing program. Other word processing programs are also available (Applewriter I or II, Guttenberg, Bank street writer, etc.) Articles and columns can be submitted on diskettes and this will speed up processing and formatting of articles for the magazine. We can help to acquire programs or computer systems at a very low price. We are planning to have a modem and an after hours telephone number, so that hot news can be sent by computer when the rates are cheap.

During the Dayton Hamvention we will solicit potential column leaders and writers from the best people in the field. We need people who are good and proficient in particular areas and especially those who are frequently listed in the contest results in top places. Those are the ones that know their stuff. I have had the oportunity to talk to many hams who have discovered many things, some quite different and closer to the truth than what is generally known, but to them it is not a "big deal". They are modest, enjoying it themselves, and we are dying to find out about it. Some are considered "secret weapons" in the contesters arsenal, but there comes the time, when they find another improvement and the "old weapon" can be released to rest of us. I think it is nice to get it "on record" and published. If you have any ideas that are of interest to rest of us, please come forward and write or tell us about it. Who came up with the "half sloper"? Some make fun of it, ("it can't work, it is half of antenna, etc."), some love it and know that it beats lousy vertical, dipole or inverted Vee ! Would the inventor step forward please. We would like to attach the call sign to it and call it "W3... sloper". It deserves it! We have many more examples like that.

We know that many radioamateurs have made significant discoveries during their hamming activities or as a part of their professional carreers. Many pioneered the communications industry. Thanks to those we have all those wonderful gadgets that we interfere with, or they interfere with us, even if they not supposed to. Who gets blamed for it? Of course, the F%$#@* HAM. We get sued for unsightly towers, interference with $3 radios and you name it. Very little is known of how much the radioamateurs have contributed to the state of the art and that perhaps most of those electronic gadgets are around because some HAM was behind it. Many companies now are finding out that when they have a technician or engineer on their staff, who is also a ham, that they have a better and more versatile person. If you do things because you love them, you bound to do a better job than someone who "just works" there. We like to hear about cases like that and provide inspiration for our newly licensed operators that there is more to it than just "Bashing" the exams. The Amateur Radio licence could be more than just a ticket to talk about nothing on 20m phone, but it could be a very interesting and useful start to explore the whole new world of communications and computer technology. This is why we would like to write about contributions made by hams in the hobby or commercial field. If you know about people who have done it, please write about them or let us know, we will try to arrange an interview with them or those who know them. Through IRSA we would like to publicize significant achievements through the popular press and to paint the radioamateur in brighter colours and increase the awareness of our hobby. This way we can fillour ranks with qualified people rather than by eliminating the exams.

We hope that RADIOSPORTING will achieve the status and place among amateur radio publications similar to that what the New England Journal of Medicine enjoys among the medical press. It is an ambitious task, but with your help and contributions we can achieve that. I am willing to contribute my best and steer the magazine on the track of excellence.

RADIOSPORTING will focus primarily on contesters and those involved in the competitive aspects of the hobby. Those are the ones who continuously push for excellence. They keep making good antennas better, improving their operating skills, learning tricks of radio-wave propagation and improving the equipment. Every bit of improvement is worth hundreds of points in contests. This of course is valuable to DXers and novices alike. It gives them picture of the "heavy artillery" and something to shoot for, or simply spurs them to improve their station or operating skills according to their means and to become better amateurs. All other areas of radio operating from SWL to satellite communications will have their columns. There are many areas that are shared by many of us. Antenna design or propagation is equally important to the novice and VHF contester. We hope that many will find the magazine extremely valuable and stimulating.

If you are involved in the business and willing to help to sponsor awards or trophies, it would be greatly appreciated. I.e. your company could sponsor a nice trophy and/or pay for the airline ticket to Dayton Hamvention for winner to pick it up. How about it? Any takers?

We will have top technical individuals writing about the technical topics, true and honest equipment reviews, modifications to commercial equipment, antenna design, etc. Interesting and clever circuits will be described in a clear and concise manner.

We will issue awards at the Annual IRSA Awards Dinner to the authors of the most valuable contribution and articles of the year.

Radiosporting will co-sponsor and report on the International Contest Symposium during Dayton Hamvention.

We are looking forward to working with you and for you on our RADIOSPORTING Magazine and we hope that you join our ranks and help to promote the excellence and true Ham spirit.

We hope that many of you will find the content of the magazine useful, interesting, stimulating and well worth the price. We would like to sponsor other projects with IRSA, such as DX and Contest Information Bulletin on the Air, toll free hot line, to donate the trophies and cosponsor the International Contest Symposium and Awards dinner during the Dayton Hamvention. The following is a brief outline of the columns and topics to be covered.

RADIOSPORTING - COLUMNS and FEATURES

EDITORIAL and guest editorial will include the timely comments on topics of current concerns.

CONTEST NEWS will feature timely news on contesting and contesters, upcoming expeditions, comments on past contests, what is new at Big Gun or Little Pistol stations, who's antenna blew down or who fell asleep during the contest. Also big lies about the last contest's score and even some funny news.

CONTEST CALENDAR will feature the dates and rules for the upcoming contests, with some tips like who does not send you a trophy if you win it, etc.

CONTEST RESULTS will contain scores from the major and minor contests, some of the results will be complete, some will list few of top scoring stations on the continent or county, depending on significance of the contest. Probably lot of it in very fine print.

DX NEWS will list present and upcoming activity on the bands, DXpeditions comming up, pictures, stories and statistics. Put all the better bulletins together - that's what you could expect. It will also list the news transmitted over the IRSA Bulletin Station. Can't beat that for speed and accurate record keeping.

BAND REPORTS column will list activities by bands as reported for the previous month. Not sure about the call sign or who it was? You will probably find it here. Good record of what was where and when.

QSL INFO will contain QSL routes and addresses of QSL managers and latest changes, done, kept and sorted on the computer and coupled with some tips and hints for "QSL sure" it should be a real helper to get that rare card.

AWARDS column will bring the information, pictures and comments on variety of wall paper for those who are still after it. Also an information on those who were awarded some non-amateur awards as well as listings and honor rolls in most popular and valuable awards.

RECORDS column will feature All Time Records in the major contests, listed by world high, continental and country. We will also track the intresting non-contest records like highest QSO rate per hour, how many seconds it took to work WAC, etc.

OPERATING STATION topics will elaborate on how to improve your station to get better efficiency, how to improve your operating skills and how the champions do it.

TECHNICAL articles will describe how to build the better equipment, how to modify the commercial equipment for better performance, how to fix known problems, etc.

ANTENNAS and related subject will be discussed by the best in the field, results of antenna tests and measurements will be described, lot of construction articles on how to build that killer antenna for little money. Towers and related topics on installation and maintenance will be discussed.

COMPUTERS column will feature hardware and software solutions to our problems and how to use the computers to help us to improve our scores, take away that duping and perhaps one day, let it operate the contest for us. Sure new star on the horizon.

VHF/UHF department will feature articles on those very short waves, moonbounce, transequatorial, microwave and specialty modes used on those frequencies. A lot for the guys with little antennas, technical dedication and lot of patience. Contests will have a prominent place.

SATELLITE communications will tell you how to use those birds, list active stations, give a run down on the activity on satellites and include news on the Space Shuttle and maybe even E.T.

SWL column will bring interesting news on new legal or illegal stations operating all over the bands with tips on how to listen on broadcasting bands or even Ham bands.

RTTY-AMTOR-PACKET modes will have notes on who is active where and how to do it cheap. Various nets and bulletins will be listed.

EQUIPMENT REVIEW will try to bring you unbiased review and opinions by those who are contesters and engineers. The reviewers will try to list all the good and bad things about them black boxes. Also announcements on the new products.

PROPAGATION column will have some reports on latest weird things observed, statistics on those A, K and other numbers, info on how to get latest up-todate information on disasters in the form of solar flares and storms, even uneducated forecast.

MOBILE/MARINE/EMERGENCY/TRAFFIC will have news just on those subjects.

FOX HUNT column will report on this sport that is very popular in Europe. It is a good exercise in direction finding, it might become useful with chasing your local repeater jammer or a DX policeman.

YL/NOVICE/QRP what a lovely group, so important to contester as a source of precious points, news and gossip on where to find them and what are they doing and need.

LEGAL DEPT. will report on news and changes in the licensing, FCC, DOC or other. Changes in the frequency allocations, classes of licences, licensing requirements in other countries and who lost his license because of what.

INDUSTRY NEWS will tell us about what is cooking in the communications industry, who is getting out of amateur radio business, who is getting in with what product. Also some personnel changes and promotions.

DX & CONTEST CLUB NEWS - here the famous and lively clubs will share the good and bad news about their activities, just as they would do it in their own bulletins. Save some work and join the bunch. Send some pictures too.

HISTORY & PROFILES will contain articles on the good old days, who did what and write about those who are contributing to our hobby and deserve our admiration.

YES: COUNT ME IN, I would like to: join the IRSA ___

subscribe to RADIOSPORTING ___

contribute to RADIOSPORTING ___

advertise in RADIOSPORTING ___
(please send me more information on rates)

I am interested in writing and contributing to RADIOSPORTING, please list the columns or areas of interest

---

As a reader I would would: 1. love to read about this column

2. be interested

3. not be interested.

Please mark your choice 1, 2 or 3 against the appropriate columns or topics. We will use this survey to determine the suitability of the columns to be featured in RADIOSPORTING. Thank you.

1.	EDITORIAL ___	17.	RTTY/AMTOR.PACKET ___
2.	CONTEST NEWS ___	18.	EQUIPMENT REVIEW ___
3.	CONTEST CALENDAR ___	19.	PROPAGATION ___
4.	CONTEST RESULTS ___	20.	MM-TRAFFIC ___
5.	DX NEWS ___	21.	FOX HUNT ___
6.	BAND REPORTS ___	22.	YL/NOVICE/QRP ___
7.	QSL INFO ___	23.	LEGAL DEPT. ___
8.	AWARDS ___	24.	INDUSTRY NEWS ___
9.	RECORDS ___	25.	CLUB NEWS ___
10.	OPERATING STN. ___	26.	HISTORY & PROFILES ___
11.	TECHNICAL ___	27.	CORRESPONDENCE ___
12.	ANTENNAS ___	28.	HAMFESTS ___
13.	COMPUTERS ___	29.	MAGAZINE INDEX ___
14.	VHF/UHF ___	30.	ADVERITZING COMM. ___
15.	SATELLITE ___	31.	ADVERTIZING CLASS. ___
16.	SWL ___	32.	OTHER TOPICS:_____

IRSA THE INTERNATIONAL RADIO SPORT ASSOCIATION.

Purpose and objectives:

1. To promote international friendship and goodwill through the sportsmanship and radio contesting.

2. To improve the quality of amateur radio operators and operating through education and experience, by voicing the opinions of radio amateurs that are experienced and have contributed to the hobby.

3. To promote amateur radio contesting and other operating related activities as a sport, and to provide thk publicity and recognition that it deserves in the public media.

4. To publish articles in the monthly magazine "RADIOSPORTING" featuring timely articles on various subjects of interest to Contesters, DXers, SWL, VHF, UHF and microwave enthusiasts, on RTTY, SSTV, Computers in communications, Fox hunting and anything of interest to the active Ham striving for self-improvement. To feature technical articles on equipment design and modifications, antenna construction, radio-wave propagation, and commercial equipment reviews by qualified people.

5. To organize as an annual event: the "International Contest Symposium" which would run in parallel (evenings) wwth the Dayton Hamvention, and feature timely topics with the participation of some of the world's leading amateurs.

6. To hold annual Awards Dinner with an entertainment program, where awards for various achievements will be presented.

7. To maintain and publish all time record tables for significant contests.

8. To sponsor and run a yearly International Contest Championship. From the results of a number of major contests, each year the "Contester of the Year" will be decided in various categories.

9. IRSA will administer a "Contest Hall of Fame" and vote on awarding the membership to those who have significantly contributed to the sport of contesting.

10. IRSA will coordinate and assist in the scheduling of international contests.

11. Regular weekly meetings on air will be held on 20 and 80 m. (14.199, 3.799)

12. An automatic, computer controlled bulletin station will transmit the latest DX and contest news on CW and RTTY.(14.099)

13. All in all, The IRSA will be dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and quality in Amateur radio by promoting, publicizing and leading the way.

14. Attractive numbered membership certificates and badges will be issued to members.

15. IRSA will be run by contesters who are selected for their accomplishments and it will be independent of any national or commercial organizations.

16. IRSA will assist and sponsor Contest/DXpeditions, Trophies and other radio sporting and publicity events.

The initial fee to join the IRSA and to cover the cost of certificate and a badge to be US$ 12, yearly membership dues to be US$ 5.

Honorary Life membership will be awarded to those who significantly contribute to IRSA and sport of contesting.

The members will be entitled to be elected and to elect officers of IRSA. They will also enjoy many services and priviledges offered to members.